

Application No. 10/050,030
Amendment dated March 2, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 4, 2003

REMARKS

Summary of Office Action

Claims 1-52 are pending in this application.

Claims 34-52 were previously elected for examination.

The Examiner requested that claims 1-33 be cancelled.

Claims 34-37 and 46-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Copeland et al. U.S. Patent 4,136,433 (hereinafter "Copeland").

Claim 45 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Copeland.

Claims 38-44 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Summary of Applicants' Reply

Applicants hereby cancel claims 1-37 and claims 46-52.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 38-44 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 38 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim (claim 34) from which claim 38 depends. Claims 39-44 depend from claim 38.

Claim 45 has also been amended.

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The obviousness rejection of claim 45 is respectfully traversed.

Claims 53 and 54 have been added.

Applicants' Reply

I. The Restriction Requirement

In response to the Office Action mailed, June 5, 2003, applicants restricted the application to claims 34-52.

Claims 1-33 remained in the application. In accordance with the Examiner's request in the September 4, 2003 Office Action, applicants hereby cancel claims 1-33.

II. Rejection of Claims 34-37 and 46-52

Claims 34-37 and 46-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Copeland. Applicants hereby cancel claims 34-37 and 46-52. The Examiner's rejection is therefore moot.

III. Objection to Claims 38-44

The Examiner objected to claims 38-44 for being dependent from a rejected base claim. The Examiner indicated that claims 38-44 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended claim 38 to include all of the limitations of claim 34 - the base claim from which claim 38

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depends. Claims 39-44 depend directly or indirectly from claim 38.

Accordingly, because claims 39-44 depend directly or indirectly from claim 38 and claim 38 has been amended to include all of the limitations of the base claim from which claim 38 depends, claims 38-44 include all of the limitations of the rejected base claim.

Therefore, claims 38-44 are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claims 38-44 be withdrawn.

IV. Rejection of Claim 45

Claim 45 depends from claim 34. Claim 34 has been cancelled. Accordingly, claim 45 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 34.

Including the limitations of claim 34, claim 45 is directed to an apparatus for inserting an insulation material formed into a predetermined shape into a lamination slot of a dynamo-electric machine component. The insulation material is cut by a cutting member, formed by a forming member, and inserted into the lamination slot by an inserting member. A central control device is enclosed by a casing.

The Examiner rejects claim 45 stating that Copeland teaches all of the elements of claim 45 except for enclosing the central control device. The Examiner states that it would have

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been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to enclose the central control device for safety and protection.

Although applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's contention, applicants nonetheless have amended claim 45 in order to advance prosecution. In particular, the casing enclosing the central control device of claim 45 has been amended such that the casing contains lubricant for lubricating the central control device.

Applicants respectfully submit that it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention in view of Copeland to enclose the central control device in a casing containing lubricant for lubricating the central control device. As shown in Copeland, insulating material (e.g., insulating material 110) is not insulated from the internal elements of Copeland.

Applicants respectfully submit that, assuming that the internal elements of Copeland were enclosed in a casing, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicants' invention would not lubricate those internal elements for a risk of contaminating the insulation material. Applicants' specification states:

Insulation material can become contaminated by lubricating procedures on some insulating handling machines. Other machines have enclosed insulation

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handling mechanisms to minimize contamination of the insulation, but such enclosures generally impede lubrication of internal mechanisms.

Page 1, line 17, through page 2, line 4.

Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would not be motivated to lubricate the internal elements of the hypothetical casing of Copeland. For at least this reason, applicants respectfully submit that claim 45 is not obvious in view of Copeland.

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that claim 45 is in condition for allowance.

V. New Claims 53-54

Applicants have added new claims 53-54. New claims 53-54 are fully supported by the specification and add no new matter.

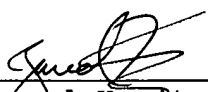
Applicants respectfully submit that claims 53-54 are in condition for allowance.

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Conclusion

The foregoing demonstrates that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request prompt reconsideration and allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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